

MR. SHENTON moved, as an amendment, to strike out all the words after "That," and insert the following, "pending further information from Sir John Coode, this committee is of opinion that the following sums might be expended on Harbor improvements at Fremantle: Viaduct, £55,000; Dredge, £30,000; Dredging River entrance, £10,000. But as there is only £23,000 available until the next loan is floated, £18,000 might be at once expended on the Viaduct, and £5,000 on the River entrance."

Question put—that the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the resolution.

The committee divided upon the question, with the following result—

Ayes ... .. 14

Noes ... .. 9

Majority for ... 5

#### AYES.

Mr. H. Brockman  
Mr. Congdon  
Mr. Forrest  
Hon. Sir M. Fraser  
Mr. James  
Mr. Kenne  
Mr. Loton  
Mr. Marmion  
Mr. McKee  
Mr. Pearce  
Mr. Richardson  
Mr. Venn  
Hon. C. N. Warton  
Hon. J. A. Wright  
(Teller.)

#### NOES.

Mr. E. R. Brockman  
Captain Fawcett  
Mr. Harper  
Mr. Hensman  
Mr. Parker  
Mr. Randell  
Mr. Scott  
Mr. Sholl  
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)

The resolution was then put and passed; and, upon the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, it was agreed that it should be presented to His Excellency by humble address.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (SUPPLEMENTARY), 1887.

This bill was read a second time, *sub silentio*.

The House adjourned at eleven o'clock, p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 18th August, 1887.

Egan v. Superintendent of Police—Removal of Branch Land Office from Geraldton—Rev. Mr. Carter's fee for conducting University Exhibition examination—Perth and Fremantle Water Supply (Messrs. Saunders and Barratt's scheme: adjourned debate—Appropriation Bill (Supplementary), 1887: in committee—Roads Bill: in committee—Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Acts Amendment Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

#### PRAYERS.

#### THE CASE OF EGAN V. SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

In reply to Mr. HENSMAN, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that no telegraphic despatch had been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies with reference to John Egan's case.

#### LAND OFFICE AT GERALDTON.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), in reply to Mr. HENSMAN, said he was not aware of any intention to remove the Branch Land Office at Geraldton.

#### HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION: REV. MR. CARTER'S FEE.

In reply to Mr. HENSMAN, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that the Rev. Mr. Carter, at the request of the High School, had conducted the examination for the University Exhibition; that the Governors had recommended that Mr. Carter should receive £10 for his services; but no funds to pay him would be available until the Supplementary Estimates came into force. When the Appropriation Bill was passed, Mr. Carter would receive his fee.

#### PERTH AND FREMANTLE WATER SUPPLY (MESSRS. SAUNDERS AND BARRATT'S SCHEME).

The debate on the report of the select committee was resumed.

MR. PARKER said he thought it was not disputed that it was absolutely necessary, in the interests of the inhabitants of both Perth and Fremantle, that a good and wholesome supply of water should be provided for the two towns. He did not

suppose that any hon. members would dispute that position. The question was how they were to obtain that necessary supply of good water. The matter had been under discussion for some years, and it had always been thought that the Municipalities would be unable to undertake this measure themselves and that it would be necessary for the Government to carry it out. They had before them at the present time the proposition of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, which, so far as they could see, would give the two towns an ample supply of good water. But it seemed that, up to the present time, the citizens of Perth generally had not been consulted about this scheme, and the people of Fremantle had never, until after the matter had been brought before that House, had an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the subject. Under these circumstances, he thought it would be unwise of the House hastily to rush to the conclusion that it would be advisable to adopt the scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt until the matter had been further discussed, not only by the ratepayers, but by the public press, and until the whole scheme had been fully placed before the people who would eventually have to pay the rates that would be instituted by harbor works. He thought he might safely say that the scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt was a commendable one, and met generally with the approval of the Council. Several others schemes had been brought forward from time to time, but to his knowledge no scheme or proposition was apparently so desirable and so well calculated to meet the end now in view as that one now before the House, and that opinion was held by the select committee. However, believing that it would not be desirable at the present time to take action which might absolutely commit them to this scheme, he would move the following amendment—"The Council having considered the proposals of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, relative to a Water Supply for Perth and Fremantle, and the Report of the Select Committee of this House on such proposals, resolve as follows:—1. That it is a matter of the greatest and most urgent importance that an ample supply of good pure water should be provided for the city of Perth and town of Fremantle.

2. That the scheme proposed by Messrs. Saunders and Barratt is highly commendable, and meets generally with the approval of the Council. 3. That it is desirable to afford the ratepayers of Perth and Fremantle an opportunity of expressing their views on the scheme, before the House takes any further action on the subject. 4. The Council therefore requests the Government to take Messrs. Saunders & Barratt's proposals, together with the Select Committee's Report, into consideration, with a view, after the ratepayers have been consulted, to take such steps as in the circumstances may be deemed advisable to ensure the necessary water supply for the towns above named." It might be said that the Fremantle ratepayers had already been consulted since he had brought up that amendment, but it might not be unwise if the House gave them a further opportunity of considering the scheme. He was willing that his amendment should be set aside if one more in accordance with the views of the House were submitted.

MR. KEANE seconded the amendment.

MR. CONGDON said that as Mayor of Fremantle he had, since this matter had been before the House, called together a meeting of the ratepayers. At that meeting, the people most unmistakably and entirely disapproved of the scheme. The people of Fremantle had a good supply of water. [A member: They get it for nothing.] The ratepayers of Fremantle were quite prepared to pay for their water. He simply wished, in making this announcement of the views of Fremantle on the subject, to prevent the House being under the impression that the port wanted the scheme proposed to them. They thought that there was a good supply of water for the purposes of the town behind the hills, and they could get it at a much cheaper rate than they would under the scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt.

MR. MARMION said he was present at the meeting of the people of Fremantle, and could speak to the unanimity of feeling against the adoption of the scheme. Under these circumstances, he felt perfectly certain that it was not the desire of that House to impose upon the town of Fremantle a scheme that was not adapted to its requirements, if the rate-

payers were of opinion that they could get a supply from the vicinity of their own town. He thought that scientific opinion upon the question of a water supply for Fremantle from the adjacent hills ought to be obtained. By the adoption of either the resolution or the amendment, the House would be condemning the people of Fremantle to pay rates for a scheme they did not require. It appeared also that the opinion of the citizens of Perth had never been asked upon the subject. There was a wide divergence of opinion upon this question. Many other schemes had been brought forward, and the citizens should certainly have an opportunity of judging between them and of considering which would be the cheapest and most desirable. It did not follow that because the people were averse to the hasty adoption of this scheme that they were opposed to the providing of a water supply. All that was asked was that the matter should not be hastily rushed through without the people of the two towns having an opportunity of discussing it and arriving at a decision as to which of the schemes put forward it was most desirable in the interests of the ratepayers to adopt. He thought the amendment of Mr. Parker committed them to the particular scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, and he should, therefore, at the proper time move an amendment.

MR. PARKER said he was willing to withdraw his amendment in favor of Mr. Marmion's if the House gave leave.

On the question being put that leave be given to withdraw the amendment, the motion was lost.

MR. RICHARDSON said that the scheme embraced the two towns, and one of these towns had rejected it. The ratepayers should be fully consulted on this matter. There might be a better scheme brought forward than that of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, and the resolution and the amendment proposed to commit them to the scheme of that firm. Any resolution adopted by that House should not limit the Government to the consideration of only this particular scheme.

MR. SCOTT said that he could not help thinking that the committee, of which he was a member, had acted rightly in making the recommendations contained

in their report. The Director of Works was certainly very much in favor of the scheme, and the members of the committee thought that it was very unlikely that they should get any other scheme placed before the House in all its details in the way that that of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt had been. He thought that while it did commit the Council to the scheme, the amendment of Mr. Parker left the Government open to adopt any other. The people of Fremantle had not condemned the scheme; they had merely said that they had a good supply much nearer their own doors. The inhabitants of Fremantle must remember, however, that by having a small scheme of their own they might perhaps have to pay more for their water than under a large scheme embracing both Perth and Fremantle. The question of a good supply of water being given to the two towns was one of vital importance to the health of the inhabitants.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said there seemed to be a great difference of opinion between the people of Fremantle and the rest of the community with regard to the water supply for the port. The people of Fremantle had a water supply which was gratis; but, so soon as the necessary mains and new reservoirs were laid on, a charge would be made for the water. The difference between the scheme for supplying Fremantle alone and that of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt was that in the former pumping would be necessary, and the latter would be a gravitation scheme. The expenditure on the former scheme would increase with an increasing demand, but in the latter scheme the annual expenditure would be small.

MR. PEARSE said that no doubt the scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt was a good one, but the people of Fremantle could get a supply of water at a cheaper rate.

MR. RANDELL said that he had moved the resolution before the House because it was necessary to bring the matter forward in a distinct form. He had had no expectation of their arriving at a conclusion on this matter during that session. The committee advised simply that the Government should be instructed to prepare a bill which would

have protected the interests of the ratepayers, and which would be fully considered by the House during next session. The charge made, therefore, that the select committee wished to thrust this scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt down the throats of the Council and the public was totally wrong. He would like to remove the false impression which seemed to have got abroad by the utterances of some persons and by the writings of others. The scheme seemed to commend itself to all who had ever thought over it. In the past, overtures with regard to water works had been made, but he thought he might take it that there was really no scheme before them but that of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, and that one had been furnished at the distinct request of the Legislative Council. The plans and specifications and estimates, as prepared by Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, must have cost a considerable sum, and they had supplied a complete scheme. The scheme was open to criticism on the score of cost, but they had the opinion of the Director of Works that it was a fair charge to make. It was generally considered that there was no possibility of their raising a loan for the purpose of water works, and so the committee were confined to the course they recommended. He did not think, of course, that any of them would wish to force this scheme upon the people of Fremantle against their expressed wish. None of them would be inclined to force the scheme upon them unless circumstances made it necessary for that to be done. In that case, the inhabitants might persist up to a point, and then it would be necessary that the Government should say, "You must have this, whether you wish it or not, in the interests of the general public." The same argument might apply to Perth, for, though many of them might have good water, they would be obliged to agree to the general supply in the interests of those who had not that good supply. He thought the House might very well adopt the amendment of Mr. Parker.

MR. HENSMAN said that he did not wish it to be thought, in any remarks he was making, that he was in the slightest degree detracting from the value of the scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt.

He was not competent to form an opinion upon it because he had none of the facts before him. With regard to the resolution before the House, it had for its object the adoption of the report of the select committee. Now, if the resolutions were adopted, the House would really be confirming the recommendation of the committee that the scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt should be accepted. Whatever might be thought of the scheme, it was a composite scheme, and it was an original scheme as regarded any scheme put forth in this colony. There were to be three parties to the scheme—the Government, the municipal councils, and the contractors—and furthermore the House was asked to sanction an arrangement to be made between those three parties. Such a scheme required very great consideration. As a general rule, in older countries, municipalities had the right of managing their own affairs; and before the House took any measure towards imposing anything upon the ratepayers, those ratepayers should be consulted and they should be given the fullest opportunity of giving their opinion. The people of Fremantle appeared to have pronounced an opinion upon this subject and they had pronounced against it. The scheme before them was one for both Perth and Fremantle, and they had before them no information as to what would be the result if Fremantle were struck out of consideration. It appeared to him that it would be most premature to pass any resolution or even any amendment thereto which committed the House in any way to the scheme before them. As regards the resolution, it did not appear whether the Government were in favor of the proposal. As for the amendment, it also would bind the House to a considerable extent, and the House should certainly not pledge itself in the matter.

MR. SHENTON said the question of a water supply and as to how works should be conducted was an important one. He was of the same opinion as he had always been, that it was the duty of the Government to construct these works, that it should be a Government undertaking, and he hoped that the Government would see their way, when the next loan bill was under consideration, to undertake it. It was understood that

the Government would not meet them in that way, and then the question came on before them as to how these works were to be carried out. It seemed to him that the only way of doing this was by the scheme proposed by Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, the municipality reserving to itself the right at the end of 25 years to get the water works into their own hands. He highly disapproved of works of this kind being in the hands of private people. He was quite in favor of any amendment to the effect that the matter be considered during the recess by the Government, special attention being given to the question of whether they could see their way clear to place an amount on the next Loan Bill for the purpose of providing a supply of water for the two towns. He did not profess to be an engineer, and, therefore, he had been guided by the opinion of the Director of Public Works. The Director of Public Works had assured the City Council that the scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt had met with his entire approval, and on that distinct understanding the Council recommended it to the Government. The citizens of Perth were, at the present time, paying high rates, and it was impossible that they could be in a position to pay this extra rate for water supply of 1s. in the pound, and on that ground the City Council wished the Government to undertake the work. If the Government would step in and assist them in the matter, the rate would be brought down to a very small amount. He noticed that attention had been drawn to the fact that in this scheme he had been on a select committee which approved of the work being done on a Government guarantee, and that in the case of the Bayswater-Busselton railway he had opposed the guarantee system. He would state distinctly again that his desire was for the Government to undertake the construction of the water works, and, if the State refused to do so, the municipalities would have to make the best arrangements in their power, reserving to themselves the right to purchase these works hereafter. He hoped the Government would see their way to put this work on a loan. They could still carry out this scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, paying that firm for the surveys and plans, because if the Government had undertaken the work,

both surveys and plans would have to be undertaken.

Mr. VENN said he was not a resident of Perth or Fremantle, yet he was desirous of doing all he could to extend to the people of these towns any advantages that were deemed necessary in the way of a water supply. In some parts of Perth the supply was good, but, no doubt, in many parts the water was bad. As the proposed work was likely to be re-productive, it should be undertaken by the Government. He supposed the colony would not have to pay to any great extent for this work, as it would be likely to repay the cost of outlay. He was desirous of supporting the scheme and was quite willing to take it for granted that it was very desirable indeed to have a supply of fresh water in Perth. This was very important, and with regard to it they should take time by the forelock—act before they were forced to do so by the effects of the people drinking impure water. He thought that the whole colony would be quite willing to take a share in the taxation created by such a good object.

Mr. A. FORREST said that he was in favor of Perth being given a good water supply. He supposed, however, that the scheme was at an end so far as Fremantle was concerned, but he failed to see why the scheme should not be brought forward to give a water supply to Perth. It would not be desirable to wait until such a work could be put upon a loan bill. This course might entail great delay, as at present there was no talk of the Government bringing in any such bill. It would be a great pity if the House was to rise before something was done in the question of a water supply for Perth, as it was well known that in summer time the water in many of the wells was not fit for drinking purposes. In some parts water left overnight in a jug had a "scum" upon it the next morning.

Mr. McRAE (on behalf of Mr. Marmion) moved the following amendment:—"This House, whilst acknowledging the value and apparent completeness of the proposal and scheme of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt, for the supply of water to Perth and Fremantle, and the necessity for a supply of good wholesome drinking water to these two principal

centres of population, considers that various principles of importance are involved requiring mature consideration; and this House recommends that—in order to allow of this full consideration—it is desirable that the whole question should be deferred until the next session of Council; and that in the meantime the Government should place themselves in communication with the Municipal Councils of Perth and Fremantle, so that those representative bodies—after consultation with the ratepayers—may advise the Government as to the best course to pursue. This Council further desires to express its opinion that the plans and sections of Messrs. Saunders and Barratt should be afforded all possible protection at the hands of the Government."

This amendment was carried, *nem. con.*

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (SUPPLEMENTARY), 1887.

Bill read a second time, *sub silentio*.

#### ROADS BILL.

The House again went into committee on this bill.

Clause 1:

MR. HARPER moved that, in consequence of the bill being brought before the House at such a late stage of the session, the Chairman do leave the Chair.

Upon the question being put, the committee divided, the numbers being—

Ayes ... .. 11

Noes ... .. 9

Majority for ... 2

AYES.  
Mr. H. Brockman  
Hon. Sir M. Fraser  
Mr. Keane  
Mr. Loton  
Mr. McRae  
Mr. Pearce  
Mr. Richardson  
Mr. Shenton  
Hon. J. G. Lee Steere  
Hon. J. A. Wright  
Mr. Harper (Teller.)

NOES.  
Mr. E. B. Brockman  
Mr. Congdon  
Captain Fawcett  
Mr. Forrest  
Mr. James  
Mr. Marnion  
Mr. Randall  
Mr. Venn  
Hon. C. N. Warton  
(Teller.)

The House resumed, and the Speaker took the Chair.

#### PEARL SHELL FISHERY REGULATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at three o'clock, p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 19th August, 1887.

Water Supply for Fremantle—The Establishment of Harbor Trusts—Excess Bill, 1886: Report of the Select Committee—Appropriation Bill (Supplementary), 1887: third reading—Perth-Busselton Railway (Message No. 12): Report of the Select Committee—Crown Lessees Arbitration Bill: third reading—Re-Appropriation Bill: in committee; third reading—Excess Bill, 1886: in committee; third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### WATER SUPPLY FOR FREMANTLE.

MR. PEARSE asked the Director of Works what steps had been taken to carry out the resolution of the House with regard to the scheme of water supply for Fremantle, for which the sum of £7,000 was re-appropriated out of the 1884 loan?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that the excavation for one reservoir was completed, and about a third of the other was finished. A large quantity of pipes had been ordered, and a portion of them had been delivered. The work would be proceeded with at once, and provision made for about 300,000 gallons.

#### HARBOR TRUSTS.

SIR T. COCKBURN - CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived when it might be desirable to consider the policy of further extending the principle of local self-government by establishing harbor trusts for the more important parts of the colony; and that the Government be requested to obtain, during the recess, such information respecting Harbor Trust Acts, and the